(b) if so, whether life style diseases would cost India 237 billion dollars by 2012;

(c) whether according to this report, the developed countries would be the worst hit;

(d) whether Government has considered the report; and

(e) if so, what are the steps being considered by his Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (e) As per information received from ICMR, the joint World Health Organisation and World Economic Forum report titled "Preventing Non-communicable Disease in the Workplace through Diet and Physical Activity WHO/World Economic Forum Report of a joint event 2008", mentions that in the year 2005, there were estimated 35 million deaths due to Non-communicable Diseases worldwide. About 80% of these deaths from non-communicable diseases occur in low and middle income countries. At the current rate, a 17% increase is expected by 2015 so that the projected number of deaths would be 45 million. The estimated loss of income to India due to non-communicable disease was 8.7 billion dollar in 2005 which is estimated to rise to 54.0 billion dollars in 2015. Accumulated loss in 2005 value is estimated at 236.6 billion dollars.

Government is aware of the burden of non-communicable diseases. The pilot phase of the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke has already been launched in 10 States (one district in each State) early this year. The Planning Commission has provided an outlay of Rs. 1660.50 crores for Eleventh Five Year Plan.

The root cause of these non-communicable diseases is unhealthy lifestyles, and consumption of tobacco, alcohol and junk food. Government has taken strong action under Law to curtail smoking in public places and also curtail tobacco use. Strong and effective advocacy of healthy lifestyles and non-consumption of tobacco, alcohol and junk food has also been undertaken.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Inclusion of districts of M.P. under NFSM

775. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts of Madhya Pradesh included in National Food Security Mission;

(b) whether Government has made any assessment about the productivity of the foodgrains that will be increased after the inclusion of districts in NFSM;

(c) if so, the details thereof, crop-wise; and

(d) the methods, other than the NFSM, that Government is taking to increase the production of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) In Madhya Pradesh, 34 districts are included under National Food Security Mission (NFSM). Of these, 9 districts under NFSM-Rice, 30 districts under NFSM-Wheat and 20 districts

under NFSM-Pulses. The NFSM envisages to achieve an additional production of 10, 8 and 2 million tonnes of rice, wheat and pulses, respectively in the identified districts of the country by the year 2011-12 including the districts of Madhya Pradesh. The major gain in production is envisaged from enhancing the productivity in rice and wheat and area expansion under pulses.

(d) Besides, NFSM, Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice/Wheat/Coarse cereals based Cropping System Areas are also being implemented through Macro Management Mode for the development of rice, wheat and coarse cereals in non-NFSM districts. For the development of pulses in existing areas, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm & Maize (ISOPOM) is in operation in all the districts of Madhya Pradesh. The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) is also in operation in the state of holistic development and achieving 4% growth in agriculture including foodgrains.

Permission sought by farmers from President of India for suicides

776. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several farmers have sought permission of President of India to end their lives;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the lives of these farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has not received any communication in this regard so far.

(c) In order to address the problem of suicides by farmers, the Government of India approved a rehabilitation package of Rs. 16978.69 crore for 31 districts in four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala reporting comparatively higher number of suicides by farmers. The package includes both immediate and medium term measures. The rehabilitation package aims at establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional credit, crop centric approach to agriculture, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying, fisheries etc. In addition, a debt waiver and debt relief scheme for farmers was announced in the Union Budget 2008-09 in order to address the problem of indebtedness of farmers.

Government of India has also launched two new Schemes namely, National Food Security Mission to improve production and productivity of foodgrains and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana aiming to incentivise the States to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sector so as to achieve 4% annual growth in the agriculture sector during the Eleventh Plan.

Irregularities in distribution of PM/CM relief to farmers in Vidarbha

777. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has recently ordered an inquiry into the multicrore scam in PM and CM relief package meant to help the families of the farmers who committed suicide in Vidarbha region;